

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 19, with the following amended paragraph:

Figs. ~~3A-D~~3A-B show the nucleotide sequence (SEQ ID NO:1) of the 5' end of clone 9 ~~(Figs. 3A-C)~~(Fig. 3A (Figs. 3A-1 through 3A-3)) and the deduced amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:2) encoded thereby ~~(Fig. 3D3E)~~.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 21, with the following amended paragraph:

~~Figs. 4A-E~~Fig. 4 (Figs. 4-1 through 4-2) show the nucleotide sequence (SEQ ID NO:3) of clone 10.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 24, with the following amended paragraph:

~~Figs. 6A-E~~Fig. 6 (Figs. 6-1 through 6-7) show the nucleotide sequence (SEQ ID NO:6) and the deduced amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:7) of NIK.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 26, with the following amended paragraph:

~~Figs. 7A-EE~~Fig. 7 (Figs 7-1 through 7-28) shows an alignment of the sequence of protein NIK (s9, SEQ ID NO:14) with the sequence of the mouse protein kinase mMEKK (mouse MAPK or ERK Kinase Kinase) (s1, SEQ ID NO:19) and a number of other kinases, i.e., BYR2 (s2, SEQ ID NO:16), Tpl-2 (s3, SEQ ID NO:12), Ewing's sarcoma oncogene (s4, SEQ ID NO:13), SSC3 (s5, SEQ ID NO:20), STE11 (s6, SEQ ID NO:17), NPK1 (s7, SEQ ID

Appln. No. 09/155,676  
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.312

NO:15), and BCK1 (s8, SEQ ID NO:18). The regions corresponding to the conserved motifs I to XI in protein kinases are marked.